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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 1, 2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct minor typographical problems. No new matter has been added. Claims 51, 64, and 77 were amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. Support for these changes may be found in the specification, page 9, lines 23-28 through page 10, lines 1-7. No new matter has been added.

The 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 51-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ginsburg et al. (USP 6,595,856) in view of Nguyen (US 2002/0071557) among which claims 51, 64, and 77 are independent claims. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons, among others, discussed below.

According to the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) §2143,

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure.

The Office Action contends that the elements of the presently claimed invention are disclosed in Ginsburg except that Ginsburg does not teach "storing a license parameter and a corresponding license parameter value of a license for determining access to the gaming system configuration the license applicable to the plurality of gaming units; prevent reconfiguration of the gaming system configuration without interrupting game play on the gaming units."

The Office Action further contends that Nguyen “teaches a secured virtual network in a gaming environment comprising storing a license parameter and a corresponding license parameter value of a license for determining access to the gaming system configuration, the license applicable to the plurality of gaming units (paragraphs 15-17, 20, and 77)” and “that it would be obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Ginsburg into Nguyen in order to provide a stable gaming system and enhance security as well as maximize the capability of the gaming network.” Moreover, the Office Action again states that “since the license identification process performed on the remote server only denied the request for gaming license compliance in certain conditions, and such denial does not result in any interruption of the game play on the gaming machine” again without providing any support for the assertion other than the examiner’s “confirmation”.

A. There is no reasonable expectation of success that the combination of prior art references will result in the claimed invention.

1. The combination of prior art references do not teach “a memory device storing a license parameter paired with a corresponding license parameter value of a license for determining access to the gaming system configuration, the license applicable to the plurality of gaming units, the license parameter having a string of characters, and the license parameter value having an integer” as provided in amended Claims 51, 64, and 77.

The Specification provides that each “of the one or more parameters is assigned a name-value pair at block 204. ... The “name” of each pair is typically a standard string of characters generally recognizable by a human reader. For example, a name may be a “Site Name”, a “Max Machine Count”. The “value” of each pair may be anything that is appropriate to selected parameter. Typically, there are two primary data types used to describe the “value” including a string and an integer.” (Specification, page 9, lines 23-28 through page 10, lines 1-4).

Ginsburg does not teach or suggest “a license parameter paired with a corresponding license parameter value” nor does Ginsburg teach or suggest “the license parameter having a string of characters, and the license parameter value having an integer”.

Thus, the combination of prior art references does not teach “a memory device storing a license parameter paired with a corresponding license parameter value of a license for

determining access to the gaming system configuration, the license applicable to the plurality of gaming units, the license parameter having a string of characters, and the license parameter value having an integer” as claimed in Claim 51, 64, and 77.

2, The combination of prior art references do not teach “when the gaming system configuration is not in compliance with the license, prevent reconfiguration of the gaming system configuration without interrupting game play on the gaming units.”

Upon a closer reading of the citations provided by the examiner, Ginsburg teaches if “even one live code fails to match the expected stored code in step 530, play is disabled 550, an error condition is declared 552, an alert signal is sent 554 (in some embodiments), and the game enters a ‘wait for operator reset’ state 556.” (Col. 8, lines 23-27). Thus, when the code fails to match, the game is interrupted and enters a “wait for operator reset” state to wait for an operator to reset the game. As stated many times previously, Nguyen is silent with respect to such features and the Examiner has not provided any actual evidence of the features. Thus, the combination of the Ginsburg and Nguyen does not teach “when the gaming system configuration is not in compliance with the license, prevent reconfiguration of the gaming system configuration without interrupting game play on the gaming units” as Ginsburg clearly teaches interrupting the game.

B. The prior art references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

For the reasons discussed above, the alleged combination of the prior art references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Namely, as discussed above, the prior art references do not teach “a memory device storing a license parameter paired with a corresponding license parameter value of a license for determining access to the gaming system configuration, the license applicable to the plurality of gaming units, the license parameter having a string of characters, and the license parameter value having an integer” nor do they teach “when the gaming system configuration is not in compliance with the license, prevent reconfiguration of the gaming system configuration without interrupting game play on the gaming units” as claimed in Claims 51, 64, and 77. Accordingly, the combination of prior art references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Accordingly, since there is no reasonable expectation of success that the combination of the reference teachings will result in the claimed invention and the prior art references do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations, they can not be said to render the claimed invention obvious. As to dependent claims 52-63, 65-76, and 78-89 the argument set forth above is equally applicable here. The base claims being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

Formal Request For Interview


Should a Notice of Allowance not be granted, Applicant formally requests an interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor since the application has been pending since January 16, 2002 with several Request For Examinations. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are required to facilitate the filing of this Amendment. However, if it is determined that such fees are due, please charge such additional fees to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. IGT1P259).

Respectfully submitted,
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